

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 2508

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TU, UN

SUBJ: TURKISH OPIUM BAN

REF: GENEVA 2303

1. MARTENS HAS GIVEN MISOFF FOLLOWING RUNDOWN ON HIS VISIT TO TURKEY. SAID HE SAW SYG OF FOREIGN MINISTRY AND DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. RECONFIRMED THAT PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT HAD BEEN NOT ONLY IDRECTLY TO OBTAIN INFO RE TURKISH POSITION CONCERNING OPIUM BAN BUT ALSO TO CONVEY HIS CONCERN THAT ANY LIFTING OF BAN WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT UN DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMS THROUGHTOUT THE WORLD, PARTICULARLY SINCE BECAUSE OF BAN TURKEY HAS BEEN HELD UP AS A KIND OF MODEL. SAID HE SPOKE FREELY, EMPHASIZING LATTER CONCERN AND NOTING THAT TURKISH DECISION RESCIND BAN WOULD HAVE UNFORTUNATE EFFECT OF KINDLING INTEREST ALREADY EXPRESSED BY CERTAIN PROBLEM COUNTRIES IN PRODUCING OPIUM FOR EXPORT, NOTABLY, AFGHANISTAN, THAILAND AND PAKISTAN.

2. RE CURRENT STATUS OF BAN, MARTENS SAID HE WAS TOLD THAT NO SPRING POPPY PLANTING HAD BEEN PERMITTED, THAT ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN PROTECT SEEDS, THAT GOT NOW EXAMINING ITS POSITION IN DEPTH BUT NO DECISION YET
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TAKEN AS TO WHETHER LIFT BAN OR NOT. ADDED TURKISH

AUTHORITIES STRESSED THAT DECISION IMPOSE BAN HAD BEEN TAKEN HASTILY BY UNDEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT AND WITHOUT ADEQUATE PLANNING. AS RESULT THERE HAD BEEN SEVERE HARD-SHIP ON PEASANTS, MANY OF WHOM HAD RECEIVED NO COMPENSATION. NOTED THAT DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE HAD EMPHASIZED THAT POPPY-GROWING REGIONS CONCERNED HAD VERY POOR SOIL, SO MUCH SO THAT AMERICAN EXPERT WEST HAD CONCLUDED THAT ADEQUATE ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF INCOME COULD NOT BE PROVIDED AND THAT SOME SHIFT OF POPULATION TO OTHER PARTS OF TURKEY WOULD BE REQUIRED.

3. MARTENS NOTED THAT TURKISH AUTHORITIES HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST IN ENLARGING CONTACTS WITH UNFDAC/DND. MENTIONED THAT SPECIAL POINT WAS MADE OF TURKEY'S DESIRE TO CONTINUE COOPERATE IN UN COORDINATED RESEARCH PROGRAM ON PAPAVER BRACTEATUM. SAID HE WAS INTRODUCED TO SCIENTISTS CHOSEN TO TAKE OVER FROM PROFESSOR TARIMAN WHO RECENTLY KILLED IN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT. WAS TOLD THAT TARIMAN HAD PLAYED CARDS CLOSE TO HIS CHEST AND LEFT HIS MATERIALS IN DISARRAY, AND THEREFORE TURKISH SCIENTISTS KNOW LITTLE ABOUT BRACTEATUM PROGRAM. MARTENS SAID HE AGREED PROVIDE ALL POSSIBLE MATERIALS AND TO ARRANGE FOR TARIMAN'S SUCCESSOR TO VISIT GENEVA/ELSEWHERE SO THAT HE CAN READ HIMSELF INTO PROGRAM AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. (IN RESPONSE MISOFF'S COMMENT, MARTENS SAID THAT UN LABORATORY EXPECTS BE ABLE ASSESS ABUSE POTENTIAL OF BRACTEATUM BY 1975, BUT NOTED THAT IN ANY EVENT KNOWLEDGEABLE CHEMISTS WITH WHOM HE HAS DISCUSSED MATTER CONSIDER THAT EXTRACTION OF BENTLEY COMPOUNDS IS VERY DIFFICULT.) MARTENS MENTIONED THAT TURKS ALSO EXPRESSED WISH HAVE DND'S CENTRAL TRAINING UNIT UNDER-TAKE TRAINING OF TURKISH LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, TO WHICH HE RESPONDED THAT CTU WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO EXPANDING TURKISH PARTICIPATION IN ITS ACTIVITIES IF COT MADE FORMAL REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE.

4. MARTENS NOTED HE CONSIDERS HIS TRIP TO TURKEY TO HAVE BEEN USEFUL AND REITERATED IT WAS NECESSARY FOR DND OBTAIN INFO ON BAN SITUATION DIRECTLY FROM TURKISH AUTHORITIES. COMMENTED THAT EVEN IF DRUG CONTROL PROGRAM CONFIDENTIAL

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IN TURKEY HAD BEEN CONDUCTED ON BILATERAL BASIS, TWO GOVTS CONCERNED SHOULD HAVE MADE GREATER EFFORT VOLUNTARILY KEEP UN INFORMED ON DEVELOPMENTS. MISOFF NOTED THAT MARTENS HAD BEEN KEPT GENERALLY INFORMED AS TO STATUS OF SITUATION IN TURKEY AND ASKED WHAT KIND OF INFO HE HAD IN MIND. HE REPLIED THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN USEFUL FOR DND TO HAVE BEEN KEPT CURRENTLY ADVISED IN DETAIL ON TECHNICAL EFFORTS UNDERTAKEN TO MOUNT

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AND OFFSET ECONOMIC HARDSHIPS FROM
BAN SO THAT THIS COULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT
BY UN IN CONNECTION PLANNING ITS PROGRAMS.DALE

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